PTO/SB/21 (08-03) Approved for use through 08/30/2003. OMB 0651-0031 U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number Application Number 10/609,012 JA (DE) **TRANSMITTAL** Filing Date June 27, 2003 **FORM** First Named Inventor Theo T. Nikiforov Art Unit (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing) 1637 **Examiner Name** Jeffrey Siew Attorney Docket Number 100/07933 Total Number of Pages in This Submission **ENCLOSURES** (Check all that apply) After Allowance communication Fee Transmittal Form Drawing(s) to Technology Center (TC) Appeal Communication to Board Licensing-related Papers Fee Attached of Appeals and Interferences Appeal Communication to TC ~ Petition Amendment/Reply (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) Petition to Convert to a After Final Provisional Application Proprietary Information Power of Attorney, Revocation Status Letter Affidavits/declaration(s) Change of Correspondence Address Other Enclosure(s) (please Terminal Disclaimer Extension of Time Request Identify below): Request for Refund **Express Abandonment Request** CD, Number of CD(s) Information Disclosure Statement Remarks Certified Copy of Priority Please charge Deposit Account No. 03-0177 for any additional fees associated with this paper Document(s) or during pendency of this application Response to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53 SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT Firm Andrew L. Filler, Reg. No. 44,107 Individual name Signature Date CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below. Typed or printed name Michelle Chan michelle (han) Date Signature Oct. 14, 2003

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Signed:

Michelle Char

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appln. No.

: 10/609,012

Confirmation No.:

8342

Applicant Filed Theo T. Nikiforov June 27, 2003

TC/A.U.

1637

Examiner
Docket No.
Customer No.

Jeffrey Siew 100/07933 021569

Title

Assay Methods and Systems

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, Applicants respectfully request entry and consideration of the following amendments and remarks.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 4 of this paper.